DEMOCRATIC
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By the Editor

Once again the western press, and in particular the American and West German newspapers, have let loose a flood of dangerous nonsense about West Berlin.

On June 15th, for instance, in a leading article, the "New York Herald Tribune" stated: "If the Soviets want West Berlin by force, they will have to use a great deal of force" and went on to speculate about "moving the battle lines quickly eastward from the West German border". The news magazine "Newsweek" reported on June 19th that western troops in West Berlin were being trained in civil war tactics in case "the Communists should stage an invasion", and that American bombers were prepared to drop "a small atomic bomb".

What caused all this murderous ferocity? Nothing more than a Soviet suggestion that it was high time to conclude a peace treaty with Germany.

On another page we print details of the new Soviet suggestions. It is worth reading carefully, because it is a sensible, moderate document, and nobody who has studied it can be taken in by the shouts from the moron press suggesting that "the Russians" or "the East Germans" want to take over West Berlin, or interfere with West Berlin in any way.

The situation in Germany has become so complicated by charges and counter-charges that it may be useful to try to present the essentials. Since the end of the war, two German states have come into existence, the German Democratic Republic in the east, and the German Federal Republic in the west. Sensible people in all countries know that at present there is no realistic chance of changing this position. It would be relatively easy to reach a modus vivendi on the German problem, and stabilise the situation in central Europe, if it were not for West Berlin, a capitalist island occupied by western troops in a socialist sea, which came into existence almost by accident at the end of World War Two.

West Berlin cannot be wished out of existence; but the very fact that it does exist is a constant irritant which prevents a sensible solution of the German problem. This is recognised by clear-sighted statesmen in the western world as well as in the socialist countries. Senator Michael Mansfield, Democratic leader in the US Senate, stated on June 14th:

"Our present position on Berlin leads only in a circle endlessly repeated as it continues to recede from the changing realities of Germany and Europe until it now promises to become at best irrelevant, and at worst a stimulus to catastrophe."

What then should be done about West Berlin. For more than two years, the Soviet Union and the German Democratic Republic have been urging that the only thing to do is to exclude West Berlin from the argument. This can be done by making it a neutral, demilitarised Free City. Its new status could be guaranteed by the United Nations, or in any other suitable fashion. It would be removed from the fray, nobody would suffer except for a handful of professional trouble-makers, and one of the central points of friction in Europe would have been done away with.

The proposal to make West Berlin a neutralised Free City may not be the ideal solution to the problem, but it is a solution which should be acceptable to anyone who wants peace. The danger of the present unsettled position is best shown by the very fact that today the sabre-rattling circles of the western world are threatening to use West Berlin as an excuse to drop a "small atom bomb".

These circles in America and elsewhere receive the warm support of the old nazis in West Germany who are thirsting for a war of revenge. As Brutus said in Shakespeare's "Julius Caesar":

"Caesar's spirit, ranging for revenge,
Shall in these confines, with a monarch's voice
Cry 'Havoc!' and let slip the dogs of war."

Peace Treaty This Year

See Inside

PEACE THIS YEAR

Khrushchov Stresses Urgency of Settlement

"The conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany must not be delayed any longer; a peaceful settlement in Europe must be achieved this year", Soviet Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchov stated on June 15th.

A few days earlier the Soviet Union published the text of the memorandum on the German problem which Khrushchov presented to US President Kennedy at the Vienna meeting. This memorandum outlined various alternative solutions for the German problem. The main alternatives were:

1. All states which fought against Germany in the Second World War should conclude a single peace treaty with the two German states. The two German states should be given six months to agree on such a treaty.

2. Two separate peace treaties, basically the same but not necessarily identical in wording could be concluded. The member states of the anti-Hitler coalition should sign the treaty with whichever German state they preferred.

3. If the western powers reject these suggestions, then the Soviet Union and other states willing to do so will sign a peace treaty with the German Democratic Republic alone.

The Soviet memorandum stressed that whichever of these three alternatives was chosen, West Berlin would have to be converted into a demilitarised Free City. All questions of access to the West Berlin Free City would have to be negotiated with the sovereign German Democratic Republic.

In his television report to the Soviet nation on June 15th, Prime Minister Khrushchov pointed out that one of the main questions to be settled by a peace treaty with Germany was the question of the frontiers of Germany. All the great powers gave de facto recognition to the frontiers established at the end of World War Two; what prevented the western powers from taking the formal step of recognising these frontiers in a peace treaty, Khrushchov asked.

"The answer obviously is that some people talk of peace, but wish to keep the embers of war smouldering in order to fan them into flame at a suitable moment," he said. "For this purpose new divisions are raised in West Germany, and Chancellor Adenauer demands atomic weapons for his army. There are forces which refuse to recognise the existing frontiers; the attempt to change the existing frontiers would mean war, however, nuclear war."

Turning to the West Berlin problem, Prime Minister Khrushchov stated:

"When we propose the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany and the conversion of West Berlin into a Free City, we are charged with wishing to deny access to West Berlin to the western powers. This is an absurd argument. When West Berlin is given the status of a Free City, this will mean that all states of the world which wish to maintain economic and cultural relations with West Berlin will be able to do so unhindered.

"For this purpose it will naturally be necessary to have an agreement with the country through which the communications to West Berlin run, the German Democratic Republic. This is perfectly normal.

"When the Soviet Government proposes to conclude a peace treaty, and to normalise the situation in West Berlin on this basis, it does this in order to remove a cause of friction, something which can lead to a dangerous conflict. It is not the socialist countries which present a challenge to the world; it is the western powers, who declare that they will not recognise a peace treaty, and will attempt to maintain their occupation regime in West Berlin.

"We call on all countries which fought against Germany to take part in a peace conference as soon as agreement has been reached on the holding of such a conference. The question today is not whether a peace treaty should be signed, but whether this peace treaty will be signed with the two existing German states, or with one German state, and whether all states which fought against Germany will participate or only some of them."

Soviet Memorandum

Here are the main points of the Soviet memorandum on the German problem which Premier Khrushchov presented to President Kennedy in Vienna on June 3rd. For space reasons some paragraphs have been paraphrased and shortened.

1. The long delay in the conclusion of a peace settlement with Germany has contributed to the dangerous development in Europe. The important allied decisions on the uprooting of German militarism have only been partially implemented, and are at present ignored in a major part of the territory of Germany.

Two German states have grown up since the end of the war, but only the Government of the German Democratic Republic recognises and applies these allied decisions. The Government of the German Federal Republic rejects these agreements, encourages militarism, and calls for a revision of the German frontiers; it attempts to play off the partners of the anti-Hitler coalition against each other.

The western powers have allowed the Federal Republic to create an army which is obviously too large for purely defence tasks. New dangerous steps taken by the NATO powers include the permission for West Germany to build 6000-ton warships, and to establish military bases in Britain, France and Italy.

2. The Soviet Union honestly wishes to remove tensions between the USSR and the USA; the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany would help in this respect. The USSR and the USA fought side-by-side against Hitler Germany, and they have the duty to conclude a peace treaty guaranteeing that no force shall grow again on German soil which could plunge the world into a new and more dreadful war.

3. Proceeding from a realistic view of the situation, the Soviet Union calls for the conclusion of a peace treaty without delay.This is a question of national security for the Soviet Union and many other states. The time has long been ripe for the con-

clusion of such a treaty; what has now to be settled is when and how such a treaty should be concluded.

The Soviet Union has no intention of injuring the interests of the United States or other western powers; it does not propose any changes in Germany or West Berlin in the interests of any one state or group of states. The Soviet Union regards it as necessary in the cause of peace to stabilise the situation which has grown up in Europe since the war, to establish in all form the existing frontiers of Germany, and to normalise the situation in West Berlin with reasonable regard for the interests of all parties.

In the interests of reaching agreement on a peace treaty, the Soviet Union does not insist that the Federal Republic should immediately quit NATO. Both German states could remain members of the existing military groupings for a certain period after the conclusion of a peace treaty. The Soviet proposal does not link the conclusion of a peace treaty with the question of the recognition of the GDR or West Germany by all parties to this treaty.

"If the USA is not ready to sign a single peace treaty with both German states, then a settlement could be reached on the basis of two treaties. The member states of the anti-Hitler coalition could then sign the peace treaty with one or the other German state as they saw fit. The two treaties would not necessarily have identical texts, but they must contain the same basic provisions on the most important questions of the peace settlement.

"5. The conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany would also solve the problem of normalising the situation in West Berlin. Since West Berlin today has no firm international status it is a place where Bonn's revanchist elements can maintain great tension and organise all sorts of provocations which endanger the cause of peace. We must prevent such a development in which the strengthening of West German militarism might lead to irreparable consequences owing to the unsettled situation in West Berlin.

"The Soviet Government sees no better solution of the West Berlin question today than the conversion of the city into a demilitarised free city. The implementation of this proposal would normalise the situation in West Berlin and pay due account to the interests of all sides. The occupation regime still ruling there has long since outlived itself; it has lost all connection with the aims for which it was created, and with the Allied agreements on Germany upon which it was based. The occupation rights would naturally be extinguished upon the conclusion of a peace treaty either with the two German states or with the GDR within the territory on which West Berlin lies.

"The Soviet Government advocates that the West Berlin Free City should freely maintain its connections with the outside world, and that its internal order should be determined by the freely expressed will of the population. It is obvious that the USA and all other countries would have every opportunity of maintaining and developing their relations with the Free City. In general, as the Soviet Government envisages, West Berlin must be strictly neutral. It could not be tolerated that West Berlin remained a centre for provocative hostile activity against the USSR, the GDR or any other state ...

"The USSR proposes that the most effective guarantees should be established against intervention by any state in the affairs of the Free City. As guarantors of the Free City, token contingents of US, British, French and Soviet troops could be stationed in West Berlin. The USSR would have no objection to the stationing of neutral troops under UN auspices in West Berlin for the same purpose. The status of the Free City could be registered in a suitable manner with the United Nations, and sealed with the authority of this body. The Soviet Union is ready to discuss any other measures which could guarantee the freedom and independence of West Berlin as a demilitarised Free City.

"The West Berlin settlement must of course take into consideration in every way strict observance of the sovereign rights of the German Democratic Republic.

"6. The Soviet Government proposes that a peace conference should be summoned without delay, that a peace treaty should be concluded, and that on this basis the question of West Berlin as a Free City should be settled. If for one reason or another the USA and other western powers are not ready for this at present, then an interim solution could be reached for a fixed period.

"The Four Powers should appeal to the German states to reach agreement in any acceptable form on the questions pertaining to a peace settlement with Germany and reunification. The Four Powers would declare in advance that they recognise any agreement reached between the Germans.

"In case of a positive outcome of talks between the GDR and the Federal Republic, a single peace treaty would then be agreed upon and signed. If the German states are not able to reach agreement, measures will be taken for the conclusion of a peace treaty with both German states or with one of them.

"In order not to drag out the peace settlement it is necessary to fix a deadline ... The Soviet Government regards a period not exceeding six months as adequate for such talks ...

"7. The Soviet Government is ready to examine any constructive proposals made by the US Government ... If the USA does not show an understanding of the necessity of concluding a peace treaty, this will be regrettable, since we shall have to sign a peace treaty only with those states willing to do so.

"The peace treaty will specifically fix the status of West Berlin as a Free City, and the Soviet Union and other treaty partners will strictly respect this status; measures will be taken to see to it that other countries also respect this status. At the same time this will also mean the ending of the occupation regime in West Berlin, with all the consequences which this implies. Specifically, the question of the utilisation of the land, water and air communications across the GDR can only be settled on the basis of appropriate agreements with the GDR. This is but natural, since control of such communications is the inalienable right of any sovereign state.

"8. The conclusion of the German treaty will be a major step towards a final post-war settlement in Europe, a settlement for which the Soviet Union has worked untiringly."

"Quit Berlin"

Mr Khrushchov has told President Kennedy that he wants the Berlin issue settled this year.

There will be no disposition to cower before any Russian threats, but both Britain and America should ask themselves: What do we gain by keeping our troops in Berlin?

At the end of the war the Allies meant to govern Germany from its old capital. It has not worked out that way. Berlin is an outpost in a hostile land.

It has no strategic value to the West. Only Dr Adenauer values it—as the capital of a future Reich.

But why should Britain and America take up the cause of Dr Adenauer?

If the West were to quit Berlin along with the Russians, one danger to world peace would vanish at a stroke.

"Daily Express", London, June 7th

Building up East Berlin

their foreign visitors in and out of East Berlin along cleverly mapped-out routes which show the worst side of the city (except for a trip along Stalin Allee, which is too well-known here to be ignored).

These are the main projects planned:

Marx-Engels Platz, once called the Lustgarten, will be built up as the government centre of the city. It was here that the king was compelled to doff his hat in honour of those who were killed in the 1848 revolution, and it was here that the socialist republic was proclaimed by Karl Liebknecht in 1918. Marx-Engels Platz has been the main center of parades and demonstrations after 1945. On one side of the square a large new building for the People's Chamber and the Cabinet will be constructed. This will be the highest building in East Berlin. Across from it will be the new Foreign Ministry and a building to house the State Council (already begun). The fourth side of the big square includes the Old Museum, wrecked in the war, whose exterior reconstruction is well under way. A large statue of Marx and Engels is planned for the centre of the square.

Unter den Linden connects Marx-Engels Platz with the Brandenburg Gate. Several important buildings here have already been restored at great expense over the years – the big University, the State Opera House and the Museum of German History among others. New govern-

Alexander Platz, or "Alex", always a shopping centre for Berliners, will receive two big new office buildings before 1965 (No. 6 and No. 7). One of them will be 17 storeys high (No. 6).

The foundations are already being dug for the large new Teachers' House (No. 5), which will include clubrooms, meeting rooms, offices for the teachers' trade union organisation and a large section for billiards, chess and other forms of recreation. Two lower stories will be reserved for a large pedagogical library, which will use only artificcial lighting and ventilation and therefore need no windows. This will permit a large outdoor mural on an educational theme.

A new concert hall will be connected with the Teachers' House by a covered passageway. A café and a restaurant on the ground floor of the building will be open to the public.

The new section of the Stalin Allee begins between Nos. 5 and 7. Many of the high, narrow rectangular buildings visible in the model are already standing and will be occupied before the end of 1961. This wide boulevard will be the centre of a new residential area housing about 15,000 people in almost 5000 apartments, and surrounded by shops, schools and other facilities and lots of green parks and trees.

Construction is well under way on a modernistic cinema, a large restaurant with dance floor and a 13-storey hotel on this section of Stalin Allee.

The din of pneumatic hammers, lorries and construction cranes and the occasional blast of an explosion grew louder and more frequent than ever in East Berlin this spring as new plans to rebuild the central part of the city began to materialise. After several architects' contests and countless discussions with the people of the city, a decision by the city councillors in April had detailed what main buildings were to be built and when their construction would begin. When this project is completed, the centre of the city stretching from the Stalin Allee boulevard in the east (already built up in 1952–1954) to the Brandenburg Gate at the border of West Berlin will be so changed as to be hardly recognisable.

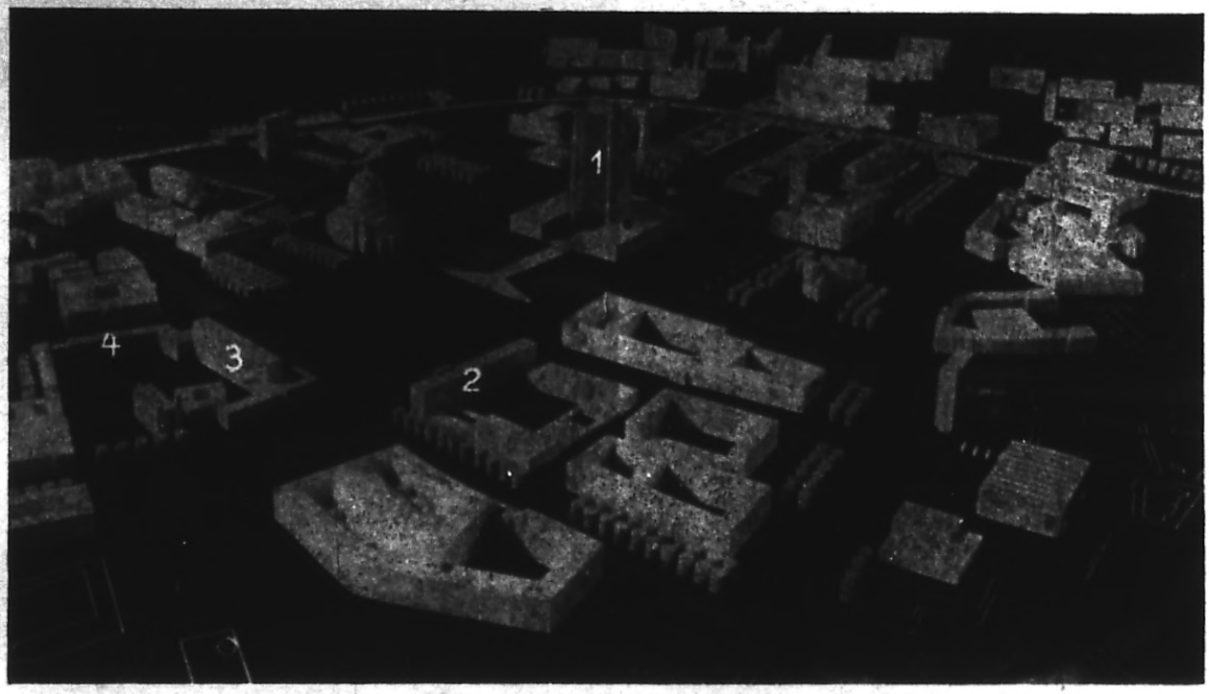
Although many large and important buildings had been rebuilt here, this central area, which took the worst beating during the war, had in general been neglected in favour of badly-needed new homes. Most of the big housing projects, averaging 1000 to 2000 new flats, were built outside the centre of town and in the suburbs.

Now that housing construction is largely on a mechanised, pre-fabricated basis and can provide at least 10,000 or 11,000 new homes every year, the city fathers decided that it was finally time to re-shape the city centre with new office and government buildings, department stores and cafés.

Deputy Lord Mayor Waldemar Schmidt summed up the situation in these words: "Some people were impatient and complained that the reconstruction of the city centre was going ahead too slowly. But there was still too much to do in developing the economy of the GDR and its capital as much as possible and remedying the worst of the housing problem with a speedy construction programme. In addition, the construction of the centre had to be carefully prepared.

"Some time in the future we shall look back and say that it was correct not to hasten hectically with this job, but rather to let the whole project develop to the necessary maturity."

As the big construction project shows results, visitors to East Berlin will no longer get an impression of bleakness in the area bordering West Berlin near the Brandenburg Gate. This will also make life more difficult for the many West Berlin tourist guides who have always steered



At left centre in the picture is Marx-Engels Platz, an historical centre of Berlin life where the Kaiser's palace stood before it was wrecked in World War II. This area is on an island formed by the Spree River.

New buildings planned for this big square are:

1. The main government centre, which will be the largest building in East Berlin. It will house the Council of Ministers (Cabinet) and sessions of the People's Chamber. The model seen in the photo does not represent the final form of the building, which has not yet been agreed upon. Construction will probably not begin before 1965.

2. Provisional seat of the State Council of the GDR, the 24-man body which replaced the president as official "head of state". Work on the foundations have already begun.

3. Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Work will begin here this year.

4. The Opera Café. This building, which faces the restored State Opera House, will consist of a number of fairly small and friendly rooms, each bearing the name of some famous musician who conducted at the State Opera in past centuries. The exterior will be a restored version of the ruined Princesses Palace. Work has already begun here.

The Opera Café faces the famous Unter den Linden boulevard, which extends westward to Brandenburg Gate and West Berlin. Across from it is the restored Museum of German History (formerly the "Armoury") and the little "Neue Wache" building, now a memorial to the victims of nazism.

Other buildings visible in the picture are the Cathedral with its round dome, and near it, a group of museums, most of which have been restored or are nearing completion.

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ment buildings, embassies and office buildings with shops on the ground floor will fill in the gaps. First building on the list is a new Opera Café to be built within the reconstructed exterior of the old wrecked Princesses' Palace.

Not too far away from Marx-Engels Platz, to the east, is Alexander Platz, known as "Alex" to Berliners and a traditional shopping centre. Several 10 to 17 storey buildings will go up here; a new department store, the German News Agency (ADN) building, and a big Teachers' Clubhouse, with café, libraries, clubrooms and all sorts of recreation facilities for the city's teachers. Adjoining it will be a new domed concert hall. Excavations for the Teachers' Clubhouse are already well under way.

Alexander Platz is at the beginning of the "new" Stalin Allee, a broad boulevard connecting up with the "old" Stalin Allee which was built between 1952 and 1954. The new section has much more simple and modern apartment buildings than the part built in the past. Beside modern, glass-enclosed shops of many kinds it will also feature a new, up-to-date cinema, a big restaurant and dance-hall and a 13-storey hotel with 400 beds. Flanking the boulevard on both sides will be a whole new district including smaller apartment buildings, schools, kindergartens, laundries, clinics, libraries and all other facilities needed by the new occupants. All the buildings in this area will receive electric current and heat from a new power plant now going up on the Spree River.

The new central section of Berlin will be filled with lawns, trees, flower beds, playgrounds and small playing fields. Only 500 people will inhabit one hectare of land (2.47 acres), as opposed to the 1200 people per hectare who were cramped into dark, unhealthy tenements in many parts of this area before the war.

The new buildings will be erected according to modern industrial methods, so that every year will see a great deal of progress. The apartments on the "new" Stalin Allee will almost all be completed this year. Main contruction method for the larger buildings is to use re-enforced concrete frameworks and pre-fabricated panels for walls and exteriors.

While the centre of the city is being re-modelled, construction of new homes in other sections will continue unabated of course, as will the improvement of roads and transportation facilities and the erection of new shops, schools and other installations.

FACTS ON GDR STUDIES

More and more young people every year are going to colleges and universities in Democratic Germany; 56 out of every 10,000 inhabitants are now students and the figure will rise to 80 in 10,000 by 1965 according to present plans. This compares with 35 in 10,000 in West Germany. There is an unlimited demand for people with a higher education in the GDR, as in other socialist countries, and this means that more and more money is spent for schooling and that graduates are grabbed up almost before they have their diplomas in their hands.

There are six universities in the GDR — at Berlin, Leipzig, Halle, Jena, Rostock, and Greifswald — plus 37 colleges specialising in everything from technology and mine engineering to art, music, theatre and cinema. Last year these schools had 95.000 students; 20,000 of whom were working towards their degree by means of correspondence courses. Another 125,000 students studied at technical schools.

Some of these students come directly from secondary schools, from which they graduate at the age of 18. Most of them, however, now spend a year working in a factory or on a farm before they start studying. This year helps to give them a more mature outlook on life and a better idea of what they want to study, an important decision, since the students in the GDR specialise in some definite career as soon as they prepare for higher education.

Some students come directly from factories and farms — without having finished their secondary education. They are usually delegated by their fellow-workers to the "Worker and Peasant Faculties" attached to all colleges and universities, where they prepare for higher education.

There has been a constant attempt to help and encourage working-class pupils to get a college education. Here is the break-down on the parental backgrounds of GDR students in 1959:

Workers and peasants	**56.9%**
Members of the intelligentsia	**14.9%**
Office employees	**19.0%**
Others (artisans, craftsmen, shopowners, private manufacterers, free professions)	**9.2%**

These figures correspond approximately to the breakdown of the population as a whole in the country, which means that after many centuries the right to education is being guaranteed everyone, with preference for the groups which have been kept out of the colleges for so long. In the Weimar Republic (1932) only 5.1% came from worker and peasant families and this proportion sank to 2.4% under Hitler. It is now back to 5.1% in West Germany.

About one-third of all students are women. Some schools naturally have a higher percentage — about half of the medical students and 60 % of those learning the teaching profession.

To guarantee that no students are troubled by financial problems during their studies, and no-one need work during the school year, the government has spent millions of marks for the students. There are no tuition fees at all, and over 90 % get stipends which depend in amount on parental finances and profession and also on where the school is located (Berlin and the larger cities are slightly more expensive); they vary in general from 130 marks to 180 marks. 10% of the students get an additional 80 marks a month for very good work, and another 30% get 40 marks additional for good work — these extra grants are based on proposals made by the classes themselves.

These stipends do not permit a luxurious life, by any means, but since student meals are very inexpensive, lodging is not expensive in private rooms and is very reasonable for those living in hostels, and medical insurance is free, the students have enough to live on and to buy the books they need. Both city transportation and railroad tickets are sharply reduced for students, and for many sports and cultural events they need only pay half price. There are also inexpensive holiday trips and camping possibilities for students.

What is life like for the average student in the GDR? His mornings, and sometimes afternoons as well, are usually well-filled with lectures and seminars. He is a member of a seminar group of about 15 to 25 students, and this is the basic group, not only for seminar discussions, but also for many other activities, especially if the group is congenial. Since all are taking the same course, and since they work together for several years, there is every possibility for the seminar group members to discuss problems together, to help those who have difficulties in one subject or another, and to organise their own parties, trips or hikes. These groups are also the smallest units of the Free German Youth organisation, to which about 90% of the students belong. The organisation has a part in all university and college decisions, where it serves as the elected representation of the students. It also has a voice in new students' entrance to the schools and

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in the distribution of stipends and of university funds devoted to cultural and social purposes.

In the political field the Free German Youth (for both students and other young people over 14) has a programme endorsing peace and disarmament, and opposing colonialism. It is represented by 25 deputies in the GDR's People's Chamber.

Of course, students in the GDR do not spend all their time with their seminar groups. Although there is a fairly heavy study load, especially for medical and technical students, there is always some time to go to the cinema, the theatre, or perhaps a concert. There are also college dances and public dance halls where students spend some of their time, either with their girl-friend or boy-friend or during the long search for one. Then there are the athletes and the sport-fans who spend every Sunday at the football fields. There are student choirs, folk dance groups, dramatic circles and orchestras. Most schools have clubrooms for the chess and card players, the TV viewers and other categories. There are also special interest clubs like cinema groups at some schools.

As for the schoolwork itself, educational methods in the GDR now require much more than attendance at lectures, participation in seminar discussions, and a great deal of reading. More and more emphasis is being placed on practical experience. This usually means six weeks every year spent at a job related to the field of study, each year at a higher level, and usually with the help of experienced men and women employed at the factory, hospital, government agency or institute. Often a whole year of practical work is included in the course, either at the beginning or after one or two years of study.

Some students return later, after receiving their diplomas, to the same job which they had temporarily during their studies. Usually the question of where they will work is decided just before graduation when each student meets with a commission representing experts from the field of work he has studied. Every student gets a job, of course; how good a job he gets depends largely on how well he did at college.

NAZI GETS KICKED UPSTAIRS

Another West German government leader with a violently nazi past has had to be kicked upstairs. Theodor Sonnemann, State Secretary in the Ministry of Agriculture, was elected June 15th as associate president of the "Raiffeisen Verband" — the organisation of West German farm producer cooperatives. This post is much less in the public eye than the prominent government position he has held thus far.

In 1941, Sonnemann wrote a book called "The Double Encirclement" naming Britain as Germany's "hereditary enemy" and stating that Jews who had fled Germany were common criminals. Details of Sonnemann's past were exposed by GERMAN REPORT on May 12th this year.

Research Coordinated

The Research Council of the GDR, a scientific body attached to the Cabinet, was given the job of coordinating and guiding scientific research and development in all institutions of the republic on June 15th. This will mean preventing the duplication of efforts and encouraging the most urgent scientific work.

The new research arrangement applies to scientific institutes and academies, universities and technical schools, research centres and larger factories; these institutions will remain responsible for their own research projects.

More Revenge Rallies in West Germany

The wave of rallies and demonstrations which drenches West Germany every year with demands for territory in Poland, Czechoslovakia and other countries was marked this year by the participation of the top politicians in the country, each hoping to win votes for his party in September's general elections.

In late May about 200,000 Germans from the so-called Sudeten area in Czechoslovakia met in Cologne to hear their leader, West German Transport Minister Hans Christian Seebohm, demand "self-determination in and for our homeland"; he repudiated the present Czechoslovak frontiers and lauded the Munich Agreement of 1938.

From June 9th to 11th the largest rally thus far was held in Hanover by the ethnic Germans from Silesia, today part of Poland. The 300,000 people brought from all parts of West Germany in special trains were told by Erich Schellhaus, chairman of their organisation, that "Silesians will never agree that Silesia is separate from Germany. We shall resist bitterly any treaty abandoning Silesia."

Schellhaus, a cabinet minister in West Germany's Lower Saxony province, was backed up by the top representatives of all four major parties in West Germany. Chancellor Adenauer, the chairmen of both the Free German Party and the new, arch-reactionary All-German Bloc all lent their verbal support to the goals of the Silesian "Landsmannschaft" or "homeland organisation". Willy Brandt, Social Democratic candidate for Chancellor, not only held a speech but led a contingent of the uniformed, torch-carrying youth section of the Silesian "Landsmannschaft" in a march past the reviewing stand.

Other similar meetings in recent weeks included a rally of the "East Prussians" in Hamburg, where Social Democratic M. P. Reinhold Rehs said; "We demand the old frontiers of the German Reich", and a meeting of 15,000 ethnic Germans from the Balkan area who met in Karlsruhe to hear State Secretary Sepp Schwarz of Baden-Wuerttemberg province, once a nazi annihilation group leader in Greece, tell them: "We insist on our homelands in the east."

In discussing this flare-up of new "refugee rallies", the Swiss newspaper "Die Tat" described the "Bund der Vertriebenen", over-all association of these groups, as "one of the largest, most active and best-organised associations in the Federal Republic ... although its numerous affiliated groups include at most a third of all refugees, it represents with its 2½ million members a power which is used very methodically and consistently ... to influence Bonn's policies in its political and especially its foreign policy decisions."

Evidence of this statement was provided by the West German Bundestag on June 14th, when it unanimously voted against trying to establish diplomatic relations with the socialist countries of eastern Europe.

BERLIN NOTEBOOK

By Allen Mann

Every summer some readers of GERMAN REPORT find their way to East Berlin, usually while en route to some other city or country. That means that they have only a few hours or days to visit the city, and we are often asked for advice as to what is most worth seeing. We do our best, advising an art gallery or the Pergamon Museum with its beautiful Greek temple portico, or the famous Soviet Memorial Park, a sport event or a theatre evening. This summer a visit to the Stalin Allee is particularly interesting, since the present building work provides a contrast to the "wedding-cake" style of earlier post-war reconstruction.

But now I have another tourist route to recommend. Ever since I moved to Berlin, I had heard about the proverbially beautiful surroundings of the city. Finally, on the first sunny Sunday in this terribly wet spring, I went with my wife and youngster on a round-trip lake voyage. There is a whole fleet of passenger boats taking cruises of this kind through the countless lakes in Berlin's outskirts — almost all of them connected together in long chains by canals or by Berlin's three rivers — the Spree, the Havel and the Dahme.

The boats vary from the little one we were in, with only a long salon, a little deck and a tiny canteen for preparing coffee, cold meals and drinks, up to the sleek new lake boats which feature moonlight dances during the summer months.

The trip took us at first past the numerous smoky factories built along the shores of the Spree River. Then we began to pass little beaches and boat houses, with an occasional riverside clubhouse owned by one of the larger factories. Soon we had reached Mueggelsee, Berlin's largest lake, with its wide, crowded beach filled with the traditional German wicker beach chairs, with its rowboats, motorboats, sailboats and canoes, and with its pleasantly wooded shores.

Soon after leaving the lake, while we were finishing our lunch, our little son pointed to two girls, fully dressed, sadly pulling a canoe out of the water. "Why don't they put on their bathing suits?" he wanted to know. Their mishap had been caused by a sudden stormy gust of wind; the next gust brought one of the heavy thundershowers which have plagued the GDR for so many weeks. But this time, we were able to watch comfortably from our dry seats in the boat while the people on both sides of the river scurried into their little weekend bungalows, dragging chairs, clothing, dogs and children with them.

Soon the sun came out again and we could go back on deck to observe drowsily how the shores receded to form another lake or drew close again as we entered a canal or a little river. Then we had our first chance to visit dry land. The boat stopped at the base of a large hill, one of the highest points in Berlin, which is crowned by a tall lookout tower. A few years ago the old tower burnt down, and we were disappointed to find that the new one was not yet quite completed. But it will soon be ready, with a handsome restaurant at its foot to supply new energy to all those who manage the steep climb.

Except for another thunder shower, the trip home was just as pleasantly uneventful as the trip out. The voyage, which lasts about six or seven hours, is a favourite with Berliners searching for relaxation close to home. Why not for weary visitors from other countries as well? And you need no visas or special permits to make the trip.

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Most readers of GERMAN REPORT know that the West German courts swarm with judges and public prosecutors who served in Hitler's brutal "special courts" and military courts and sent many thousands of innocent people to their deaths — anti-fascist Germans, Jews, resistance fighters from all countries of Europe and large numbers of people whose petty or trumped-up misdemeanours meant death only because they were Polish, French, Russian or Czech.

Up till now nothing has been done about these judges. They continued to wear the black robes of the West German courts, and in some cases they even sat in judgement on veteran anti-fascists who were again being tried on almost the same political grounds as under Hitler.

But protests began to mount, especially in Britain and a few other countries, and the West German authorities grew more and more worried. Then came the Eichmann trial, and West Germany found it politically wise to look as though it were doing something about the nazi judges.

On June 15th the West German Parliament passed a special law calling on incriminated judges to retire. If they do this voluntarily by June 30th 1962 they will receive full pensions and suffer no disadvantages. This means that all the nazi judges who had people beheaded for listening to the allied radio, sheltering Jewish children from Eichmann and his accomplices, or saying that Hitler might lose the war, can now retire with the knowledge that an envelope with a fat check in it will drop into their mail box every month as long as they live.

This really is an Alice-in-Wonderland solution. The West German authorities are saying in effect: "A lot of our judges are murderers. If they will be nice boys and remove themselves from the public eye, we shall reward them with great big pensions."

Anti-fascists everywhere may not rejoice at this solution, but they can congratulate themselves just a little. Thanks to their protests some of the worst criminals will remove themselves from office, even if they are rewarded instead of being punished.

According to the West German press, about 70 judges are expected to retire. This, the papers imply, will result in a clean bill of health for the courts of the country, and they clearly hope that all further criticism will be stifled by the measure. Actually, of course, the resignation of these 70 judges will only touch the fringe of the problem.

On June 5th the liberal West German "Frankfurter Rundschau" stated: "The fact remains that the majority of judges in office today also 'administered justice' during the Third Reich".

As far back as October 19th 1958, Dr Max Guede, West German Prosecutor General, admitted that "the mass of today's judges and public prosecutors were already active in legal office between 1933 and 1945 ... They were tools of illegality and instruments of terror".

In the eastern part of Germany a very different policy was followed after 1945. The whole judicial system was cleansed of the old nazis from top to bottom and filled with young, often inexperienced but anti-fascist men and women, most of whom before their legal training had been workers, farmers or white-collar employees. In the courts, as in other walks of life, East Germany got off to a fresh start, while West Germany, after a short interregnum took up again where Hitler had left it.

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